

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY-PARISH OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 26, 2003.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL: Jerry Trumps (Chair - District 6), Robert Castille (Vice Chair - District 2), Bobby Badeaux (District 1), Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. (District 4), Lenwood Broussard (District 5), Marc Mouton (District 7), Rob Stevenson (District 8), Randy Menard (District 9)

ABSENT: Chris Williams (District 3)

COUNCIL STAFF: Norma Dugas (Clerk of the Council), Veronica Williams (Assistant Clerk), Monica Fontenot (Administrative Assistant)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Steve Dupuis (City-Parish Attorney), Chief Ronald Boudreaux (Police Department), Benny Soulier (Director of Administrative Services), Robert Benoit (Director of Planning, Zoning & Codes), Gerald Boudreaux (Director of Parks & Recreation), John Raines (Director of Public Works)

COMMENCEMENT

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(001)AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Chair Jerry Trumps called the Regular Council Meeting of August 26, 2003 to order.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(003)AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Marc Mouton was called upon to deliver the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Trumps made the following announcements:

- Councilman Williams was out of town for business, therefore, was not present for the meeting
- A budget hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 27 at 3:00 pm regarding LUS
- A budget hearing will be held on Thursday, August 28 at 5:00 pm regarding various departments

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(020)AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: **EXECUTIVE/PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
No report was given

RESOLUTIONS

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(023)AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: R-054-2003 A resolution of the Lafayette City-Parish Council requesting the Planning and Zoning Commission to conduct a public hearing to consider the rezoning of property in the 100 block of Cedar Crest Court between W. Congress and Parkside Drive from R-2 (Multi-family residential) to Single-Family Residential. A motion to approve by Stevenson, seconded by Castille, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Williams

RECUSED: None

Motion was approved.

Robert Benoit, Director of Planning, Zoning & Codes, explained the subject resolution is to request that the Administration conduct a public hearing regarding the rezoning. Councilman Williams requested that the property along Cedar Crest Court from Congress to Versailles be down-zoned to Single-Family Residential. This issue is scheduled to go before the Zoning Commission in October and to the Council in November. Benoit confirmed the residents of the neighborhood are in favor of this request.

The following persons were recognized:

Susan Geary is a resident who is concerned with a proposed four-plex development. With many of the homes considered historical, the residents felt this development could jeopardize the value of the homes in the neighborhood. During the research of the area, discrepancies were discovered. Real estate appraisals are in conflict with paperwork that is on file with LCG. It states the area is zoned R-2 (multi-family residential) but there are 3 separate appraisals indicating the area as single-family residential.

Rebecca Doherty also a resident, reiterated comments made by Ms. Geary. She encouraged the Council to consider the request being made by the residents. The residents were unaware that the owner of the subject property had applied for a permit to construct a four-plex building.

Upon questioning by Benjamin, Benoit stated his office had recently received the plans for the development and would meet with the legal department before the issuance of a permit. Castille questioned if LCG should deny the permit or the rezoning of the area, would LCG be held liable. Steve Dupuis, City-Parish Attorney, stated if that were to take place, his department would have to determine if it would be considered a “taking of the person’s property”.

The following persons signed a blue sheet in support of the issue but did not wish to speak:

Jim Purslow
Kakki Purslow
Gerelda Champagne
Scott Kemmerer
Roy Benoit
Jackson Mithrandir

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(286)AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS

- a. Recognize Paulette Gauthrie regarding July 4 Celebration.
This item was pulled.
- b. Presentation by Roy Guidry, Business/Organizer of the Louisiana and Mississippi Carpenters Regional Council

Mr. Guidry expressed his concerns regarding the issue on construction companies. He stated local citizens have expressed concerns about the use of questionable workforce in the area. Local workers are finding it more difficult to find jobs because outside contractors are being awarded jobs whereas the local companies are not even given the courtesy of participating in the bid process. These contractors bypass local companies and hire illegal employees to do construction work. He requested some type of legislation to protect the union.

- c. Recognize Bob Sides with CODA regarding political forums

Mr. Sides was present to extend an invitation to the Council to participate in upcoming political forums that were being sponsored by CODA.

REPORTS AND/OR DISCUSSION ITEMS

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(498)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6a: Status of Brookhollow Subdivision drainage

Bill Campbell stated that the property owners have been contacted but only 3 out of the 6 signed an agreement. Those who refused to sign expressed their concerns regarding Edith Coulee not having been excavated as of this time. A permit from the Corps of Engineers has been obtained.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(558)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6b: Status of Langlinois Road drainage

John Raines stated his staff will meet with the property owners once again in hopes of gaining rights-of-way. If his staff is unable to obtain all necessary rights-of-way, he will exercise the expropriation process.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(611)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6c: Discuss flooding at 400 block of Industrial Parkway

The following person was recognized:

Ronnie Mount expressed his concerns with continuous flooding problems in the area. There are some areas on Industrial Parkway in which ditches and drains are clogged which causes water to backup. John Raines explained there are plans to clean the outfall throughout the area. Councilman Mouton questioned why this area had not been annexed into the city limits of Lafayette.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(003)

Raines responded there was an attempt many years ago to annex the area but was protested by some property owners who were concerned with some of the restrictions. After hearing the protests regarding the annexation, the Council opted not to move forward. Mr. Mount added that all property owners hope to get annexed in order to receive city utilities and amenities.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(054)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6d: Discuss drainage concerns in St. Michael's Cove Subdivision

The following person was recognized:

Gene Segura expressed his concerns with the drainage problems in the neighborhood. He presented the Council with pictures and requested Public Works to assist in solving problems. Raines agreed to meet with the residents, survey the situation and determine a solution.

The following persons signed a blue sheet in support of the issue but did not wish to speak:

Keith Richard
Laurie Richard

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(118)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6e: Discuss drainage problems on Fabiola Avenue

Councilman Mouton stated that Mr. Leroy Abshire has a continual problem with the sloping of the ditch located on his property. Raines stated he will have his staff assess the problem and determine a solution.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(132)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6f: Discuss drainage problems on Printemps Road

Councilman Castille stated correspondence had been sent to a property owner who had filled in a natural drain and was given 30 days to correct the action. As of this time, the problem still remains. Raines responded his staff would meet with the property owner to determine a solution and work with the owner to correct the problem.

The following person was recognized:

Allen Lormand, Jr. was under the impression that someone had already met with the property owner and a solution was already determined. Raines responded the only task left is to complete the engineering report and meet with the property owner involved to show how LCG will solve the problem. He apologized for the time delay and committed to work diligently on coming to closure.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(198)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6g: Update on Camellia Blvd. Soundwall

Raines stated he is waiting on the final survey from the engineering firm on the conflicts and suggestions on what can be built within the fiscal constraints and timelines. Once Raines receives the survey, he will meet with all necessary parties to discuss the various options that are available and when an option is selected, then the specifications will be prepared, finalized and prepared for the bid process.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6h: Discuss fencing requirements regarding Woody's Wrecker Company
This item was pulled.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(291)AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Comments from the public on other matters.

The following person was recognized:

Mary Lawyer requested assistance on tax liens that have been placed on her brother's property due to long grass and cleanup done by LCG. Her brother has been ill and is unable to pay for the lien. Chair Trumps responded that correspondence has been sent to City-Parish Attorney Steve Dupuis to research the matter to determine if LCG could provide assistance. Mr. Dupuis responded he reviewed the file he obtained from Environmental Quality and replied with a memorandum to CAO Weber that based on what was found in the file, LCG could not provide any relief.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Trumps declared the meeting adjourned.

Norma A. Dugas
Clerk of the Council